

2000

Christmas News from the Browns

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Travels in Ireland



Pub lunch in Dublin

Ireland, and connected up with a bus tour that took them through 800 miles of country roads, 400 pounds of french fries (chips), and about 50 gallons of Guinness! Blessed with a guide that was still passionate about Irish history, they passed through famous places like Waterford, Killarney, Blarney Castle (to kiss the stone), Limerick and the Ring of Kerry. There were home made Irish sweaters everywhere and they were soon weighed by their luggage. Back in Dublin, they met up with their good friends and sometimes traveling companions, Dave & Sally Smith from Guernsey in the Channel Islands. Armed with their new-found knowledge of Southern Ireland, the Browns rented a car and headed off to see more of the country. Now unencumbered by a large bus full of people, the group were free to visit every pub West of Dublin. For the most part content with pub grub, they took time out to sample fine dining wherever it could be had. Covering new ground each day, they headed back to Dublin where they caught the train to Belfast then home.

“Have ya heard about Irish diplomacy? That’s the ability to tell a man to go to Hell, so that he will look forward to making the trip!” That says it all about the Irish sense of humour. The trip began in a small suburb of Belfast in Northern Ireland where the Brow’s visited a couple of distant relatives. Using local buses to take them into the city for shopping, they bought a train-pass when traveling as far as Londonderry in the north to Bray in the south. Later, they took a first class train from Belfast to Dublin in the South of

The Clancey Brothers



The Clancey boys are still full of the Blarney. Ben is now 5 and started kindergarten in September. He recently

visited the family dentist for the first time and the dental assistant told him he looked like his Grandpa. “I don’t look like my Grandpa” he replied, “My Grandpa has a mustache!”

Mathew is still working his way through the “terrible twos”. It has been reported that he is just like his Grandpa when it comes to food . . . Inspired by quantity before quality! And what a grouch if he is hungry. Is Grandpa really like that?



Travels in Mexico



Gord & Marilyn at breakfast

No, that’s not a mural in the background. It’s the real thing! Remember when you could buy a beer in Mexico for 75¢? In those days, there was no light (or paper) in the bathroom and it smelled so bad you gagged. The water gave you the Aztec two step and the taxis were held together with baling wire. That’s all been replaced now with clean, well stocked bathrooms, filtered water, and air-conditioned suburban vans. . . the beer costs five bucks! After several flight delays, the Browns arrived in Oaxaca City on the 16th of October. Situated in the mountains about 350

miles inland from the Pacific Ocean, it is home to the famous ruins of Monte Alban. Oaxaca is old-world Mexico with a rural charm that is an inspiration. Four days to see black pottery, rugs, the market and sample all of the Oaxacan fine foods left the Browns looking forward to sitting on a beach. They found one in Huatulco at the coast and spent the next eight days lying around, reading, swimming, diving, and visiting some of the local bays. Famous for their turtle sanctuaries, the bays are quiet and pristine . . . ideal for snorkeling. Then home again and Buenos dias!

The Clancey Corner

Paige and Mitch have been on the move this year. They joined Sharp in California for business, later in the year, visited Mexico and then, in July, to the Maritimes to see the tall ships. Paige became President of Basic Business Systems this year as Gord moved to CEO. She took over Gord’s old office and is now in charge of the general management at Basic. Mitch is having another great year in the



Paige & Mitch in Mexico

copier business and his company has now moved into the same building as Basic. Shared resources leaves more time for kids!



Diving 2000

Taking time in August to go on the live-a-board, the Mamro in Port Hardy for four days, Gord logged some spectacular diving with six gill sharks, wolf eels, and sea lions. The “Old Farts” diving club is still active (membership requires over that you be over 50 years of age and have done more than 100 dives).

With the exception of Mexico, the rest of the year was spent diving around Vancouver Island and the North shore. In Huatulco, Gord hooked up with an instructor that he had met through the internet. October is low season for the resort so Charlie was able to take Gord on some dives that were beyond the experience of the students that he normally takes out.

Bits 'n Pieces

- ♥ Development plans for the Douglas area (where the Browns live) remain just that . . . development plans.
- ♥ June, the Browns’ adopted Japanese daughter, had a baby boy this year.
- ♥ Gord is now heading up the internet (and intranet) development team at Basic (between dive trips with his cronies) and has been overwhelmed by the volume of the work.
- ♥ Gord and Marilyn have been asked by Royal Heights Tours to escort trips

to East Africa and Turkey. October, 2001 will see them do back to back tours . . first to West Turkey followed by a tour of Kenya, Tanzania, and Zanzibar. (with a four day “holiday” in between . . maybe Malta).
♥ Ben says that all he wants for Christmas is his two front teeth.
♥ The Brow’s traveled to Regina, Sask. in May to join Marilyn’s brother and his wife as they celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary